

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
3 OWYHEE COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS FOR THE COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL AN-
4 NIVERSARY.

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, the county of Owyhee was established on December 31, 1863, with
7 the approval and signature of acting Governor W. B. Daniels, soon after the
8 formation of the Idaho Territory by Abraham Lincoln and is celebrating its
9 Sesquicentennial Anniversary this year; and

10 WHEREAS, Owyhee County was named for three Hawaiian (Kanaka) trappers
11 who mysteriously disappeared in the area while working for fur trapper Don-
12 ald McKenzie in 1818, with the county seat initially located at Ruby City,
13 moved to Silver City in 1867, and finally to Murphy in 1934; and

14 WHEREAS, Owyhee County has historical mining significance in the state,
15 with the gold/silver rush happening in and around the Silver City area,
16 as well as the ranching, sheep herding and farming communities that have
17 grown up around it and are the backbone of the county's economy today. The
18 gold/silver rush of Owyhee County started May 18, 1863, with the discovery of
19 gold by a group of twenty-nine men led by Michael Jordan. The county is also
20 home to the Austrian Settlement, a group of people from Slovenia and Germany
21 who developed and settled lands south of Homedale, Idaho, in 1914, many of
22 which are still in existence today; and

23 WHEREAS, Owyhee County is recognized across the State of Idaho for its
24 historic preservation efforts, namely the Silver City Historic District,
25 which is a growing tourist attraction, as well as the Oreana Catholic Church
26 and many others. The county is also home to many other tourist attrac-
27 tions, including archaeology sites at Camas and Pole Creeks and the Guffey
28 Butte-Black Butte Archaeology District; architecture sites at Bruneau
29 Episcopal Church and the Owyhee County Courthouse; the historic districts
30 of Silver City and DeLamar; the military sites of Camp Lyon and Camp Three
31 Forks; and the stage stations of Poison Creek Stage Station and Wickahony
32 Post Office and Stage Station. Finally, Owyhee County is home to other
33 tourist sites, including the Bruneau Sand Dunes, the Bruneau Observatory,
34 Emu-Z-Um near Grandview, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana,
35 the Swan Falls Dam and Power Plant, the Owyhee County Historical Museum in
36 Murphy, the Bernard Ferry, Noble Horse Barn, the southern "dry" route of
37 the Oregon Trail, Givens Hot Springs, the Gusman Ranch near Jordan Valley,
38 Oregon, and many parks and festivals in the Marsing/Homedale area; and

39 WHEREAS, Owyhee County is the second largest county in the State of
40 Idaho, with a large multitude of deer, elk, antelope, game birds, fish and
41 other wildlife used for hunting, fishing and observation. The county is also
42 an attractive recreational area used for horseback riding, motorcycling,
43 four wheeling, camping, hiking, swimming and much more; and

1 WHEREAS, the Owyhee County Historical Museum, in conjunction with the
2 Owyhee County Historic Preservation Commission, will kick off the Sesqui-
3 centennial Celebration on June 1, 2013, during the Owyhee County Historical
4 Museum annual Outpost Days event, which will feature special performances
5 about the foundation of the county and the sale of the "Owyhee Outpost," a
6 historical journal with a detailed description of the county's founding, and
7 an interactive display located in the museum.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
9 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
10 and the Senate concurring therein, that we hereby recognize and congratu-
11 late Owyhee County and its residents for Owyhee County's Sesquicentennial
12 Anniversary on December 31, 2013.